



Walking and Bicycling Safety Tips

- Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Children are not always aware of their surroundings and may dart into traffic assuming drivers will see and stop for them. Carefully consider whether your child is ready to walk to school or wait for the bus without adult supervision and walk the route with your child beforehand.
- Children often have a hard time judging speed and distance and should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old.
- Always stop at the curb or edge of the roadway
- Use sidewalks whenever possible when walking to the bus stop or school
- Always stop at the curb, or any driveway or alley which crosses a sidewalk
- Walk on the left facing traffic, if you must walk in the road
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals (green or walk light) and crosswalks
- Watch out for vehicles backing out of driveways and parking spaces
- Check for parked cars that may be ready to move
- Walk to the edge of the parked cars
- Look left, right and left again before crossing a street

- Watch and wait for moving vehicles to pass
- Cross only when the street is clear
- Keep looking for cars as you cross
- Look the driver in the eye to know that he sees you
- Pedestrians should not use cell phones to talk or text or wear headphones when crossing the street
- Some students will be riding bicycles to school. Please remind bike riders that they must follow all traffic rules and signs, i.e. stop signs and traffic lights. By law, all children under the age of 18 must wear a bicycle helmet when riding or being carried on a bicycle while riding on a public street, right-of-way, or on a bicycle path.
- If traveling to school by bike, obey the rules of the road and wear a helmet. Not only is it the smart thing to do, it is also the law in Maryland.

Check out the County's Safe Routes to Schools program at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-pedsafety/srts/home.html>